

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 currently remain in the application. Claims 13 and 14 are newly added claims, and Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 are herein amended.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Shimizu. In part in view of this reference, all four independent claims 1, 4, 7 and 10, together with some of the dependent claims, have been amended to make it clear that what is therein referred to as "display command" is a command that is found in the user program (stored in the user program memory 105 of the programmable controller 100 which also includes the back light 108 and the MPU 101). It has also been made clear herein that there is the system program memory 104 which is separate (different) from aforesaid user program memory 105 and stores the system program for controlling the entire system. The above is all supported by the specification and hence the amendment to the claims section effected herein should be deemed enterable.


The illumination lamp of Shimizu is switched on and off by a keyboard operation so as to send a command to a CPU. In order to switch off the illumination lamp after a predetermined length of time, a command is inputted through numerical keys on the keyboard and is stored in a RAM, but the actual control of the illumination lamp is by this CPU which is adapted to carry out the control according to a system program stored in a ROM (column 2, line 3).

According to the present invention, by contrast, the switching of the back light 108 on and off is not controlled by the system program stored in the system program memory 104 but according to the commands in the user program stored in the user program memory 105 which is separate and different from the system program memory 104. }

Rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. 102 is justified only when each of the inventive elements in that claim is disclosed in one reference. As explained above, Shimizu does not disclose the inventive element described above in amended independent claims 1, 4, 7 and 10. Moreover, Shimizu does not even hint at controlling the illumination lamp by a user program. Thus, it should be concluded that the claims herein amended are not only not anticipated by Shimizu but also not obvious in view thereof. In summary, it is believed that

the instant Amendment is completely in response to the Office Action and hence that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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